

VALUATION PLAN CAUSES INTEREST

Good to Be Derived by Railroads Doubtful by Many Persons.

TO TAKE SEVERAL YEARS

Experts Say \$9,000,000 Will Be Required—Rates May Be Based on Results.

Whether or not the physical valuation of railroads will be of value to the United States is a question which has two sides, it is believed. This enormous undertaking has just been commenced by the Interstate Commerce Commission under the special direction of former Commissioner Knapp. This work means in making an inventory of the physical properties of all railroads of the United States.

By physical properties is meant actual railroad track, cars, locomotives, rolling stock of all kinds, rights of way, real estate holdings, and also depots, station houses, freight stations, baggage houses, platforms, telegraph towers, wires, office buildings, automobiles, barges, wagons, trucks, in fact, everything but paper securities, such as stocks and bonds, and intangible attributes such as good will, possessed by the railroads.

This vast enterprise has attracted world-wide attention. When the movement for this valuation started, few officials connected with it realized the magnitude of the work. Upon discussion of measures to provide money for the taking of the inventory, it developed that a physical valuation involved a tremendous amount of labor, but Congress saw fit to authorize the work, nevertheless, and it has been begun.

Appropriation of \$2,000,000.

Approximately \$2,000,000 has been appropriated to start the work, but this time that amount will have to be expended before the valuation is complete. It is asserted by experts. Several years will be required to do the work, according to present estimates. But whether these estimates are accurate remains to be seen.

After the report on the physical valuation of railroads is made, it will be of any value? That is a question which is perplexing officials. It is believed by some persons that a mistake has been made in the basis taken for the valuation. It is feared that the conclusions expected to be drawn from the report on the physical valuation will be fallacious. The matter is reasoned in this way.

Take as an example any Northern road in a manufacturing region. The land over which this road runs is worth a certain amount an acre. The physical valuation board will base its report on the prevailing acreage price. Then the value of the rails will be placed at a fair price; the railroad itself will be assessed in the same manner, and the buildings, such as stations and freight houses will be appraised by the same method.

Then take a railroad in the South or West in an agricultural section. The land which is used as right of way will be assessed at the prevailing acreage price in that region. This figure will be much lower than the land owned by the Northern system. Then take the value of the rails. In making the valuation the market price will have to be used as a basis. But rails cost the railroad as much or more than the Northern system pays. The price for railroad ties will be approximately the same. In the inventory buildings will be entered as of the same comparative value, and rolling stock will be appraised at almost exactly the same figure. On the whole the actual physical value of the possessions of the two roads will appear about the same.

May Decide Rates.

On the result of this physical valuation Congress and the Interstate Commerce Commission expect to base the making of rates. Especially, Congress expects to limit the issue of railroad stocks to conform with the physical valuation of the roads, making the issue of stock in proportion, but that where a railroad practically is destitute of real property, its stock issue shall be restricted to its physical affluence.

This is held to be fallacious reasoning by a number of investigators here. It is contended that a railroad with miles upon miles of track and many cars has an earning capacity greatly less than the earning capacity of a road running but a short distance.

It is believed by some that the vast undertaking of Congress and the Interstate Commerce Commission will be practically worthless, unless supplemented by some method which will make the report adaptable to diverse conditions.

NEWMAN ASSURES BATHING BEACH WILL REMAIN OPEN

Commissioner Newman pointed out last night that Washington will not be entirely lacking in bathing facilities next year, notwithstanding the fact that the House Committee on Appropriations has failed to adopt the board's recommendations for two additional beaches. The old municipal bathing beach will still be in operation under the shadow of the Washington Monument. An appropriation for the maintenance of this beach still remains in the unexpended budget.

Washington possesses its present facilities for bathing several years ago. Around the little pools in Potomac Park the District has thousands of boys, girls, young men, and young women who are friends of water sports. A large percentage of this part of the city's population is driven to the pools by a hot summer's day.

These pools will be in operation next year unless the appropriation for them is dropped in some part of the budget's course through Congress.

TODAY'S SELECTIONS.

BY NEW YORK TELEGRAPH.

First race—Super. Pan. Hachap, May L.
Second race—Clinton, Eugene Walton, Dofy.
Third race—Cordie F., Swade Sam. Robert.
Fourth race—Foundation, Minotoma, Vented Right.
Fifth race—Orla, Smile, Salsia, Zola.
Sixth race—The Monk, Sigurd, Acumen.

Charleston.

First race—Bulgarian, Str. Caladore, Cliff Maid.
Second race—Hearthstone, Coming Coon, Servience.
Third race—Briar, Path, Amoret, Ann Tilly.
Fourth race—Winning Witch, Campion, Star Actress.
Fifth race—Behret, Lost Fortune, Patty Roman.
Sixth race—Lindbrook, Jabot, Dr. Daugherty.

INSTRUCTION AGAINST ACCIDENT

W. F. Peabody Addresses Pines Branch Citizens' Association.

W. F. Peabody, of the Street Safety Association, addressed the Pines Branch Citizens' Association last night in Iowa Avenue M. E. Church. Mr. Peabody outlined the work in educating citizens to protect themselves and others against accidents.

Attention was called to the accidents that have occurred on the Avenue of the Presidents and Fourteenth street, north of Pines Branch Road. These were attributed to bad street lighting.

A resolution was passed asking that all powers now exercised by the Commissioners over the department of education be transferred to the board of education. An increase in the salary of the superintendent of schools to \$1,000 was advocated.

C. F. McCurdy was elected president; J. A. Chamberlain, vice president; Alton J. Hastings, secretary; and Anna Tree, treasurer. Edwin S. Clarkson was chosen delegate to the Federation of Citizens' Associations. H. H. Butler, John F. Robb, Louis D. Julian, and L. M. Tolman were elected members of the executive committee.

MISS GOMPERS A SUFFRAGIST.

Says She Won't Make Any Speeches, However.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 15.—"A suffragist? Yes, indeed," said Miss Sadie Gompers, daughter of Samuel Gompers, here today. "Mother and I are both strong believers in suffrage. I would not get out and mount a platform and make rousing speeches for the cause or wave flags or march in processions, but I believe woman suffrage is coming through a gradual change in sentiment and broadening of views."

Mrs. Gompers, who is visiting here with her daughter, echoed the young woman's sentiments.

"Higher wages for women, shorter hours, better conditions, more unionism among women workers, and the freedom of woman to follow any line of work she chooses," is the slogan of Mrs. Gompers.

NAVY PAYMASTER RESIGNS.

Edward Little Forfeits Place, but No Reason Is Given.

Passed Assistant Paymaster Edward Little, U. S. N., who has for the last three years been assigned to duty on the U. S. S. Mayflower, the President's yacht, has tendered his resignation. No reason so far has been given, and the Navy Department has not as yet accepted his resignation.

Paymaster Little was transferred from duty on the Mayflower last Saturday and placed on the list of pay corps "awaiting orders." He is about twenty-nine years old and quite well known and popular in Washington society.

There seems to be an air of mystery as to the reason for the officer's resignation, and inquiries at the Navy Department merely elicited the reply that any information desired concerning it would have to come from Paymaster Little himself. The latter, however, was out of town yesterday, but was expected back last night.

PROPHETS NOMINATE OFFICERS.

Kallipolis Grotto to Hold Election Night of January 29.

Kallipolis Grotto, No. 15, Mystic Order Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, at a meeting last night in Odd Fellows' Hall, nominated officers to be elected and installed on the night of January 29. The nominations resulted as follows: P. R. Pullman and E. W. Hawkins for monarch; Edward W. Libbey and Castleman F. Bone, for chief justice; O. A. C. Dehmer, for master of ceremonies; Joseph H. Curran, for treasurer; Harry L. Strang, Jr., for secretary; Edward Schmid, Peter Lattner, and Dr. W. H. Wunder, trustees; and Thomas B. Walker, for sentinel.

The retiring monarch is Jesse Grant. Edward Hawkins, candidate for the vacancy, now is chief justice, while Castleman Bone, who is after the chief justiceship, is master of ceremonies.

Tonight the Grotto and friends will hold a theater party at Poli's.

Re-enforced concrete floor beams are being successfully used in Germany instead of steel ones.

EDUCATIONAL "REPAIR SHOP" FOR "MISFITS"

Public School Pupils Needing Special Instruction Attend Coaching School with Profit.

WORK PLEASURES SUPERVISOR ELY

A recent innovation in the public school work of the District is a coaching school organized at the Gales School Building under the direction of Supervisor Holden M. Ely.

Mr. Ely has long been interested in the girls and boys who are "misfits" in the regular grades under his supervision and desired to open a school where such children might receive the special instruction needed to bring them abreast



—Photo by Harry Ewing.
SELDON M. ELY,
Under Whose Direction Coaching School Is Conducted.

of their classes. In some instances it would mean only temporary help because of weakness in some subject; in others, greater help because of a general retardation. Also, it gives the unusually bright pupil an opportunity to cover more ground than that mapped out in the grades.

The coaching school, very aptly called "the educational repair shop," has an enrollment of twenty-five pupils at present, ranging from ten to eighteen years in age, and from first to eighth grades. The boy who is lower than his mates or who has lost time by absence often finds himself lagging behind, a drag upon his class, a mortification to his friends, and a source of unhappiness to himself, until discouraged, he either drops out of school at an early age or, worse still, sinks into a hopeless state and loses all ambition. The coaching school prevents this by giving him the individual help he needs. The damage is repaired and he returns to his class with renewed courage and ambition.

"First Aid" to Foreigners.

Another group of children now enrolled is composed of foreigners—three Russians, one Greek, one Italian, and one Chinese—all eager to learn the language that they may take places in the upper grades where they belong. It has long been a problem how to care for such pupils. To put these older children, as heretofore, with first grade tots where the rudiments of reading and writing are taught, did not solve the difficulty. But in the new school they spend most of the time on English work and are quickly learning the language. It is a splendid opportunity for the unusually bright children.

One pupil now enrolled is doing the work of seventh and eighth grades in German. Several will complete a grade and a half.

Mr. Ely feels that this school has justified itself in not only assisting those special children but in relieving the regular classes of cases that would be burdensome.

VOTES FOR BETTER BUTTER

Elgin Board Takes Action as Result of New Tests.

Elgin, Ill., Dec. 15.—On the ground that a reduced tariff on butter requires a higher standard to meet competition, the Elgin Board of Trade, in annual session today, raised the standard of Elgin butter from 21 to 22 points.

This means that all butter sold on the call board of the Elgin board or sold under the rules of the Elgin board must score two points higher in the future. The board voted to extend the territory of the association to the entire United States. Its territory heretofore has been limited to the Upper Mississippi States.

Concert at Ingram Memorial.

Minor C. Baldwin, of New York, will sing an organ recital at Ingram Memorial Church at 8:15 o'clock tonight. Mrs. A. D. Melvin will sing "The Star of Bethlehem," by Steven Adams, and Mrs. A. H. Zimmerman will sing "The Rosary," by Nevill. John B. Wilson will accompany the soloists.

DISTRICT OFFICERS OPEN BIDS FOR SCHOOL

All Offers for Construction of Proposed Building Exceed Appropriation.

SUBSTITUTE PROPOSALS MADE

Bids for the proposed Central High School were opened in the presence of many District officials by Dr. Tindall, secretary to the Commissioners, at the District Building yesterday afternoon.

All of the bids were in excess of the appropriation of \$1,200,000, but every bidder submitted a long list of substitutes for the materials called for in the specifications. The lowest bid was submitted by E. C. Gerhardt, of St. Louis, placing the contract cost at \$1,210,000. This proposal was informal, however, as no bond was furnished. The lowest bid in proper form was for \$1,250,000, and was submitted by John T. Bradley.

Forty-four sets of specifications of the proposed building were prepared for prospective bidders at a cost of \$22,500. This amount and nearly a year's work in preparing the plans would be lost should Congress decide to utilize the appropriation for the erection of two schools, as recommended by the Commissioners in their letter to the Senate yesterday morning.

In their communication, the Commissioners recommended that \$700,000 be expended on the erection of the proposed Central High School at Eleventh and Clifton streets northwest, and the balance be utilized in the acquiring of a site for a high school in the eastern section of the city.

The plans for the proposed high school building will be the special feature of the annual meeting of the Central High School Alumni, December 26. Lantern slides showing the plans in detail have been prepared and will be used to illustrate the talk by Emory M. Wilson, principal of the school. The selection of officers for 1914 will be held.

CAT CLAWS LEGISLATOR.

Representative Lowe's Night Endangered by Jealous Feline.

South Norwalk, Conn., Dec. 15.—Representative William M. Lowe's cat, jealous because he was fondling a pet lamb, seriously clawed him today on the face and arms.

His sight was endangered by the injury, and he is being treated by a specialist.

Vacant Schoolhouse Collapses.

Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Public school building, No. 11, which was closed two weeks ago on account of weakness caused by cave-in of near-by coal mine, collapsed today.

Fire in Nightclothes.

Chaffee, Mo., Dec. 15.—The Astoria Hotel, one of the finest in Southeast Missouri, was totally destroyed by fire this morning. One hundred guests escaped in their nightclothes.

STOPPING IN NEW YORK.

From Washington—Mrs. Adamson, Martha Washington; Miss H. Armstrong, Grand; R. H. Benson, York; R. A. Bogley, Broadway Central; E. T. Chew, Longacre; Mrs. J. C. Krasner, Park Avenue; J. Karl, Navarre; E. Kidwell, Thorne; Miss M. MacFall, Gerard; F. McDermott, Martha Washington; M. McDermott, Martha Washington; E. H. Richardson, Hermitage; J. T. Rose, Navarre; J. L. Smith, Wallick and Mrs. Whitney, Martha Washington.

From Baltimore—W. Brownell, Arlington; P. J. Hyman, St. Denis; Mr. and Mrs. Harzer, York; J. C. Hill, Grand; H. H. Johnson, Wallick; J. H. and

Mrs. J. H. Latsche, Navarre; H. C. Lee, Collingwood; J. Loftus, Flinders; Mrs. G. P. Renner, York; A. R. Saunders, Normandie; L. B. Wilcox, Grand Union; J. B. Himes, Marlborough; O. L. Reppe, Jr., Marlborough; F. Wallbech, J. C. Weatherby, and Miss L. M. Weatherby, Park Avenue; and J. E. Weininger, Marlborough.

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